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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RAMIREZ TO VISIT EIU

CHARLESTON, IL--Blandina Cardenas Ramirez, director of the Office of Minorities in Higher Education, American Council on Education (ACE), will be the second speaker in a new lecture series at Eastern Illinois University titled "One Nation: Many Voices."

The public is invited to her lecture titled "Diversity and Democracy: Affirming American Values" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, in the University Union Grand Ballroom. She will examine the trends reshaping American society and affirming American values. Admission is free. A reception in her honor will follow the lecture.

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The lecture series, sponsored by Eastern's Cultural Diversity Professorship Committee and the Women's Studies Council, is designed to celebrate the contributions which different groups have made to the mosaic of American society.

Ramirez has served as director of the ACE Office of Minorities for three years and succeeded Reginald Wilson, former visiting professor for cultural diversity at Eastern.

She is responsible for monitoring federal policy and programmatic activities which affect the participation of minorities in higher education. She is also serving her fifth year of a six-year term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.